

Babbitt et al.
Application Serial # 09/505,821
Attorney Docket No. 391331

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 15-24 are pending in the application.

The Office requires restriction between the Group I claims 1-12, and 22-24 drawn to an electronic voting system and the Group II claims 13, 15-21 drawn to a program storage medium. Applicant elects the Group II claims; however, this election is made with traverse.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the voting system make use of a program storage medium by recitation of program instructions that are stored on the medium. All of the independent claims in the application require the use of a program storage medium, and so claims 1 and 13 are generic to both Group I and Group II. It is not the case as argued by the Office that the program storage medium of Group II is separately usable on something other than the claimed voting system. This is because the system does require the detail of program storage. Therefore, the respective Groups are not independent and distinct.

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CONCLUSION

For the forgoing reasons, the claims appear to be in allowable condition. Based upon the foregoing discussion, Applicant's attorney submits that the amended claims are allowable and respectfully solicits a Notice of Allowance. Authorization is given to charge deposit account 12-0600 if any additional fees are due.

Respectfully submitted,



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